

Private

no 14

Washington Apr 18th 1844

My Dear Friend

I did not receive the Annual Report, which you was good enough to send me until this day. If you should have occasion to send anything more please to address to me under a close envelope to Giddings. I have been hoping to hear from you. I miss your spirit stirring tones and regret the absence of them even if you scold me ever so bad. It is pleasanter to quarrel with you than to be at peace with other people. The Texas treaty hangs like a fox in his hole, when the hunter can only reach the tip of his tail. I presume ^{it will be} ~~unearthed~~ this week. The authors act like thieves, who have broke into a house and are groping for plunder, but are startled and pause at the whistling of the wind. The Senate will act nobly. There will not be even a numerical majority in favor of

it. Every Southern whig save
too except Henderson of Missis-
sippi is known to be opposed
to it. Mr Mangum the Presi-
dent of the Senate told me
that if every man in North
Carolina should instruct him
to vote for it, he would not
do it; that sooner than lend
his aid to the consummation
of that "deeply discreditable
fraud," he would perish and
his children should say that
he died an honest man. I
have had much conversation
with him and Morehead of
Kentucky. I hope we have
been mutually benefitted. I
found them uninformed in
many respects, of our princi-
ples and purposes, but anxious
to understand them. To give you

an idea of them and of the spirit in which they have met me I state the following. In our first conversation Mr Mangum addressing another gentleman, who had introduced me, said that he and Mr Monthead had just been talking about Texas; and then observed that they had been lamenting that obstacles were thrown in the way of their duty on this subject by the intemperate conduct of the Northern fanatics. I interposed and said that as one of the fanatics I could assure them that we had no intention to embarrass them in the discharge of their duty, that if such were the effect of our doing our duty, we were not responsible for it. They replied that they did not believe that we had any such intention, that nevertheless such

was the effect. Their people at home were kept in such a state of exasperation by our agitation that ~~every~~ ^{every} man, who was suspected of favoring anti-slavery views, was at once thrown out of position, and superseded by demagogues, who chimed in with the popular clamor, and increased it. They told how they had formerly denounced slavery, but now when they were to be driven to that, to which they wished to come in their own time and their own way and to which they ^{before we moved,} were coming, before this interference, they would not move an inch but rather brace themselves the other way. I told them

they had altogether mistaken
 our spirit and design; that I
 had the honor of presiding at the
 formation of the first Abolition
 Society (as the term is now under-
 stood) in the U. S.; that I had
 been intimately acquainted with
 their proceedings from that time
 to this; that they adopted as a
 fundamental principle in the be-
 ginning that they would use and
 would countenance others in us-
 ing none but moral and peace-
 ful means for the abolition of
 slavery; that to this they had strictly
 adhered, and would never depart
 from it; that they had invaria-
 bly disclaimed all right to inter-
 ference with slavery in the States
 except by petitioning for an amend-
 ment to the constitution giving them
 the power to do so; that if they
^{Southwestern} deemed the diffusion of informa-
 tion on the subject of slavery and
 the use of argument and persua-
 sion to induce those who had the
 power, to abolish it, a possible or
 improper interference, I could

only regret it as a delusion; that we were not yet wholly enslaved ourselves, tho' deprived of some of our inalienable and constitutional rights, which had been sacrificed to the maintenance of slavery; ~~but~~ we would never relinquish the right to speak and to print our opinions of slavery nor omit to perform that duty; that if we were so silly as to attempt to drive slaveholders, I submitted to them that it would be not less silly and much more reprehensible for them to refrain from doing what they knew and admitted to be right on the plea that we acted unwisely; that what a man deemed right and just, it was his duty to do, regardless of the threats of those, who would drive him, or the sneers of those, who would say that he was driven.

This conversation and more particularly the last sentiment made a very ^{favorable} impression. Both the Senators admitted that slavery was inconsistent with the principles of the government and they held out indefinite expectations that the triumph of the whigs

would be highly advantageous to our
cause. as to the annexation of Texas
they declared that they believed Mr
Clay & Co. utterly opposed to it; that
that would make no difference with
them, that they should resist if
we were for it, and that they had
made up their minds to do so long
before they knew his views any
otherwise than as they were in-
ferrible from his character. Mr
Morehead said that before he
left Kentucky, he told members
of the legislature that if he was
unanimously instructed by that
body to vote for it, he would nei-
ther obey nor resign. Last even-
ing I rec'd a note from Mr Man-
gum informing that he had
rec'd a letter from Mr Clay dated
at Raleigh in which he
declared himself opposed to annex-
tion, and also that he would give
a public exposition of his sentiments
as soon as he reached Washington,
which will be in a few days.

Calhoun is endeavoring to
contrive means of deceiving the Sen-
ate by a pretence that he is nego-

liating with Mexico, for her con-
sent to the annexation, ~~and~~ that
this will be obtained readily for
a pecuniary consideration, and
that there is no danger that war
will ensue. This is all false, as
you will have seen by a state-
ment in the Standard, of this
week, of the conversation, which
took place between him and
Gen Almonte, the Mexican min-
ister. That statement was autho-
rized by the latter; ~~and~~ I have
today been informed of the par-
ticulars of a new interview be-
tween the same functionaries.
The object was to get some ground
~~for~~ ^{on} which it might ~~it might~~ be
represented to the Senate without
making a lie out of the whole cloth,
that there is a reasonable prospect
of the acquiescence of Mexico. Of
course this was not ~~as~~ avowed but
it was the interpretation of the min-
ister. Calhoun let out the real

Texas minister has given out that he will proceed to England, in case Texas is rejected by us, and seek protection there. In consequence I suppose of this, and of the falsehood, the Moderation and Globe are daily putting forth about the designs of Great Britain upon the "lone" republic, the British minister has formally declared to the Texas ministers that they have nothing to expect in that quarter, that in short, John Bull will not have her. Mr Packenham has also said our government, you propose to take possession of Texas from fear of us; we may as a consequence take Cuba from fear of you.

What will come out of this snarl I cannot tell, but one thing I do not doubt, and that is that it will redound to the advantage of our cause. We never occupied so commanding a position as at this moment, and it will ^{be} our fault if it do not become more and more so. The third party will not survive this Texas question two months. They have ^{for some time} been in as great a twitter as a mouse under a receiver from which a pump is exhausting the air. Every one will

reason for annexation. He branched
off suddenly, and said that the blacks
were very happy in the South, much
more so than they could be if they
were free; that, ^{however} it could not be
denied that Christendom was
combined against the institution;
that it was in considerable danger;
that the abolitionists were formi-
dable, and that no resistance remain-
ed but to for the owners of slaves in
this country but to annex Texas.
He said they had no wish to treat
Mexico ill or to have a collision
with her. Gen Almonte asked him
why then he did not leave Texas
as she is independent, if she can
maintain ^{what was assumed in recognizing her and} her independence, and as
much as slavery was established
there. He said Calhoun there are
but 25000 slaves in Texas, and
the abolitionists will buy them and
set them free. It may seem incred-
ible that the man should talk so, but
the fact is that he and his coadjutors
are mad. They are in the greatest
prejudication, and yet they rush wildly
on and will keep blindfolded.

You are aware that the new